

PETER McCORMOCK.

JANUARY 12, 1832.

Mr. CAVE JOHNSON, from the Committee on Private Land Claims, made the following

REPORT:

*The Committee on Private Land Claims, to which was referred the petition of Peter M'Cormock, report:*

That said claimant filed his application for a settlement right, before the board of commissioners for the Upper Louisiana, at present the State of Missouri, claiming six hundred and twenty-four arpens and seventy four perches of land, equalling 534 acres and nine poles, on the river Platin; and the same was surveyed for him by Thomas Maddin, deputy surveyor for the district of St. Genevieve, on the 8th of February, 1806. And, on the 27th June, 1806, the board of commissioners had the same under consideration, and recite in their record: "Peter M'Cormock claiming as aforesaid, 534 arpens 9 perches of land, situate on the river Platin, district aforesaid, and produces a survey of the same, dated the 8th, and certified the 20th February, 1806," and received the testimony offered as to settlement, and decide as follows: "The board grant the aforesaid claimant 400 arpens of land, situate as aforesaid, provided so much be found vacant there."

It further appears, that on the 5th of December, 1807, the board of commissioners again had said claim under consideration, reciting the claim of said M'Cormock to be for 534 acres and 9 perches, and further testimony is examined as to the permission given the claimant from the Spanish authorities, to settle on the land; and the case is then adjourned for further consideration. And on the 30th of September, 1811, the said board "granted to Peter M'Cormock 450 arpens of land, and ordered that the same be surveyed as nearly in a square as may be, and so as to include his improvements."—Commissioners' certificate number 1245. It is further proven to the committee that, in the list of confirmed claims furnished by the board to the surveyor general, the claim of McCormock was stated as having been confirmed for 624 arpens, and to be surveyed according to the plat of Thomas Maddin, dated the 8th of February, 1806; and on the 13th of October, 1807, the same was re-surveyed by Lionel Brown, including 624 arpens, and very nearly corresponding with the lines of the survey of Maddin, made in 1806. And it appears that, in 1822, a copy of the survey made by Brown, was sent to the recorder for the purpose of obtaining a grant; and that, in 1828, the recorder returned said survey, giving the information that it did not corres-

pond with the confirmation, it having been only for four hundred and fifty arpens. The committee are at a loss to conceive upon what ground the board of commissioners confirmed the title to said applicant for either four hundred or four hundred and fifty arpens. The act of the 2d March, 1805, section 2, makes express provision that applicants for settlement rights, who had been in possession of the land, and cultivated the same, prior to the 20th of December, 1803, with the permission of the proper Spanish authorities, that the land "shall be granted" to such applicant, provided that the same does not exceed "one mile square." Under that provision of the law, the committee conceive that the claim of the applicant should have been confirmed for six hundred and twenty-four arpens of land, according to the survey made for him by Thomas Maddin, on the 8th of February, 1806, and certified on the 20th of February, 1806; and report a bill for his relief.